

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUH, SOCI, CB  
SUBJECT: REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC KAM-  
PUCHEA

REF: (A) STATE 157953, (B) BANGKOK 17849

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS INTERVIEW WITH CAMBODIAN REFUGEE,  
SOURCE J. END SUMMARY

2. SOURCE J, 26, IS A STUDENT FROM SIEM REAP. HE COMPLETED  
11 YEARS OF STUDY PRIOR TO THE VICTORY OF THE KHMER ROUGE.  
HE FLED TO THAILAND BECAUSE, AS A FORMER STUDENT, HE WAS  
VULNERABLE. HE ARRIVED IN THAILAND JANUARY 14, 1978. HIS  
ACCOUNT FOLLOWS:

3. QTE CONDITIONS OF LIFE IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA. ALL  
THE 345 PEOPLE IN MY VILLAGE ATE TOGETHER. MANY OF THE  
VILLAGERS WERE WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO  
THE VILLAGE IN 1977 FROM ODDAR MEANCHEY. THE MEN HAD  
ESCAPED TO THAILAND BECAUSE OF ITS NEARNESS TO THE BORDER.  
THE KHMER ROUGE WANTED TO CLEAR THE BORDER TO PREVENT FURTHER  
ESCAPE.

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4. QTE FOOD RATIONS WERE ABOUT THE SAME FORM 1975 TO  
1978. WE EACH RECEIVED ABOUT ONE OR TWO TINS OF RICE  
PER PERSON, PER DAY (250-500 GRAMS). I ESTIMATE THAT  
WE RAISED ABOUT 3 TONS OF PADDY PER HECTARE IN 1976-78 DESPITE THE  
FACT THAT THE KHMER ROUGE CLAIMED THAT BY 1978 WE WERE  
RAISING SIX TONS PER HECTARE. WE WORKED LIKE ANIMALS.

IF YOU DIDN'T WORK, YOU GOT NO FOOD.

5. QTE SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION AND DISCIPLINE. FOR A MINOR ERROR, YOU WERE REPRIMANDED AND RECEIVED NO FOOD RATION. THE THIRD TIME YOU COMMITTED A MINOR ERROR, YOU WERE KILLED. FOR A SERIOUS MISTAKE SUCH AS MAKING PROPAGANDA AGAINST THE NEW REGIME, YOU WERE KILLED IMMEDIATELY. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU COMPARED THE COMMUNIST AND THE FREE SYSTEM, THE PUNISHMENT WAS DEATH. ONLY MINOR MISTAKES WERE COMMITTED IN MY VILLAGE.

6. QTE IN THE POLITICAL MEETINGS HELD EVERY TEN DAYS, YOU COULD ONLY LISTEN. YOU COULD NOT CRITICIZE OR MAKE SUGGESTIONS.

7. QTE EXECUTIONS. FORMER GKR SOLDIERS WERE KILLED FROM 1975 TO 1978. IN 1977, THEY STARTED KILLING CAPITALISTS, STUDENTS, MONKS AND EVEN CHINESE AND VIETNAMESE, EVEN IF THEY COULD SPEAK CAMBODIAN. THESE CLASSES WERE KILLED BY BEING BEATEN TO DEATH WITH POLES.

8. QTE THE HUSBAND OF MY SISTER WAS KILLED BECAUSE HE WAS A FORMER GKR SOLDIER.

9. QTE I OFTEN SAW CADAVERS OF FORMER SOLDIERS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OTHERS THROWN INTO THE MARKET PLACE AS A WARNING TO THE OTHER VILLAGERS. USUALLY, THERE WOULD BE FIVE OR SIX

BODIES IN THE MARKET. I SAW SUCH OVER TEN TIMES. AFTERWARD, THE VILLAGERS WERE TOLD TO CARRY THE DECOMPOSING BODIES TO THE FIELDS FOR FERTILIZER.

10. QTE I OVERHEARD A MEETING WHERE THE KHMER ROUGE CADRES TOLD THE "OLD CAMBODIANS" (THOSE WHO WERE UNDER KHMER ROUGE CADRES RULE BEFORE APRIL, 1975), THAT "NEW CAMBODIANS" (THOSE WHO WERE UNDER THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT) WERE "THE ENEMY WHO WOULD EVENTUALLY ALL BE KILLED." I GUESS THAT MAYBE 90 PERCENT HAD ALREADY BEEN KILLED IN MY VILLAGE.

11. QTE A FRIEND OF MINE, AN "OLD CAMBODIAN", WHO WORKED FOR THE KHMER ROUGE SINCE 1970, WAS VERY DISSATISFIED WITH THE KHMER ROUGE. HE WARNED ME THAT I WAS ABOUT TO BE KILLED BECAUSE I HAD BEEN A STUDENT.

12. QTE HUMAN, CIVIL, AND POLITICAL RIGHTS. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS HUMAN RIGHTS OR CIVIL RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA. THERE ARE NO RIGHTS. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO IMAGINE

WHAT POLITICAL RIGHTS COULD BE IN SUCH A SYSTEM. I  
KNOW NOTHING OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OR ITS POLICIES.  
WE WERE NOT ALLOWED TO KNOW. END QTE  
O'DONOHUE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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